1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
Coarse cereals	7.69	8.54	22.80	26.24	0.00	0.00	25.63	32.44	4.90	2.99
Pulses	7.16	10.86	10.85	14.93	0.00	0.01	18.26	26.68	1.32	1.83
Oilseeds	19.15	20.51	13.85	15.41	0.00	0.00	35.31	31.96	4.66	4.47
Cotton	13.19	10.79	2.85	2.34	0.00	0.00	31.33	31.91	0.22	0.36
Sugarcane	1.33	2.47	2.41	2.94	0.00	0.00	7.89	10.88	3.58	3.86

It will be seen that the sowing in the Peninsular States which was slow during the initial period of South-West Monsoon has shown improvement during the subsequent period.

In the Peninsular India, except for the Government of Karnataka, which has declared drought in 84 taluks in 21 districts, no other State Government has intimated about declaration of drought, due to deficit rainfall during South-West Monsoon this year. The Government of Karnataka has ready availability of funds in its Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) for taking immediate measures in the wake of natural calamities including drought. In response to the Memorandum submitted by the Government of Karnataka seeking Central assistance for drought relief, an Inter-Ministerial Central Team was constituted and the Team visited the State from 15th to 18th October, 2008 for assessment of the drought situation and requirements of Central assistance.

Suicides by farmers despite the packages

*108. SHRI MOINUL HASSAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of Government has been drawn to the CAG report on "Farmers Packages" in Maharashtra and the performance audit the Government of Maharashtra presented to the Assembly;

(b) whether Government is aware that the CAG report says, "No evaluation of the implementation of the packages, in terms of reduction in agrarian distress, was made";

(c) if so, the reaction of Government thereto; and

(d) despite the State Government's Rs. 1075 crore "package" for farmers and after the Prime Minister's visit in mid 2006 and the Central Government's Rs. 3750 crore package, how the incidents of suicides continued unabated?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) The Government of Maharashtra has confirmed the facts stated in part (a) and (b) of the question.

(c) The Government of Maharashtra appointed a one man committee under the Chairmanship of Dr. Narendra Jadhav, Vice-Chancellor, University of Pune in November, 2007 to carry out evaluation of the special rehabilitation package of the Government of India and the Government of Maharashtra for mitigating distress of farmers in the identified suicide prone districts of Maharashtra. The Committee has submitted its report to the Government of Maharashtra in July, 2008 and has concluded that the speed of implementation and achievements made in both the packages are satisfactory.

(d) The Government of Maharashtra has reported that with the progress of the implementation of the rehabilitation packages, the number of suicides by farmers have declined. Government has also implemented the "Agricultural Debt Waiver and Debt Relief Scheme" for farmers for mitigation of distress due to indebtedness.

Diversion of foodgrains meant for flood relief

†*109. SHRI ALI ANWAR ANSARI:
SHRI RAJNITI PRASAD:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that instead of distributing among beneficiaries, thousands of quintals of rice and wheat made available as a nutritional food and flood relief measure by Central Government, for the years 2002-03, 2003-04, and 2004-05, was sold in black market in Khutauna and Laukahi blocks of Madhubani district in Bihar; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) and (b) As reported by State Govt. of Bihar, based on a preliminary inquiry, departmental action has been initiated against two officers. Further details are awaited from the State Government.

Reduction in production capacity of fact

†*110. SHRI BALAVANT *ALIAS* BAL APTE:
SHRI SHREEGOPAL VYAS:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the production capacity of Fertilizers and Chemicals Travancore Limited has gone down in the current year since the year 2004;

(b) the amount of fall in production capacity;

(c) whether reservations thereto have been expressed by the Comptroller and Auditor General; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN): (a) to (d) The Fertilizers and Chemicals Travancore Ltd. (FACT) has two units located at Udyogmandal and Cochin, Kerala. The installed capacity and production of products is as follows:-

	Installed capacity (MT)	2004-05	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08
					Production / in Tonnes
Factamfos 20:20	633500	560788	745902	721202	425530
Ammonium Sulphate	225000	200564	172986	183490	30478
Caprolactam	50000	44932	38666	41327	6759
Urea	330000	--	--	--	--

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.